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1980-81 Annual Report

The Social Planning
& Research Council
of Hamilton and District

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A United Way Member Agency

President's Report

Twenty years ago, on January 12, 1961, the first formal terms of reference were established for the Social Planning Council of Hamilton and District, as an autonomous body within the United Way. Under the directorship of Harry Penny and the presidency of the late Judge H. C. Arrell, the S.P.C. was underway.

Since then, we have had eleven presidents, three Executive Directors, well over 100 Board members, and a marked evolution within the Council and the community which it services.

In 1961, inflation was running at a rate of 1 to 2 per cent. Unemployment rates had reached a peak of 5.5% and within five years, they would be down to 2.5%. Our population was expanding at a rapid rate, spurred on by high birth rates and immigration. The latter was leading to a marked change in the ethnic structure of our population.

It was the height of the fabled baby-boom. The number of children was increasing at an unprecedented rate, setting off ripples which would have profound effects for the next two decades.

The year 1961 and the decade that followed it, was a time of incredible growth and vitality. It is fair to say that the primary pre-occupation of planners of the time was to minimize the shock waves of this growth. Services had to expand to keep up, whether they were sewers, water supply, or social services. The very controversial urban renewal was undertaken in the downtown core. New agencies were started. Needs were identified and fuelled on by our growth, there always seemed to be dollars around to pay for the new services.

Twenty years later, the world has definitely changed. We are now entering our fifth year of negligible population growth. The number of children in the population is on the decline and it is the seniors group which will be expanding during the next two decades. The famous "social service" cutbacks of the mid-seventies have effectively halted growth in the social service system.

It is probably fair to say that the major preoccupation of the next decade will be one of maintaining

a sense of urban vitality during a period of slow growth.

Through all of those changes, the Social Planning and Research Council has evolved along with the community. While the establishment of new services was a major focus of the sixties, it changed during the seventies to one of trying to maintain the existing service system with the level of quality that the citizens rightfully require. The emphasis has changed from growth to consolidation and this emphasis is clearly reflected in the projects that we undertake.

Through all of this, however, the basic *raison d'être* of the S.P.R.C. has remained relatively unchanged. The objectives which were laid out in our 1961 terms of reference still hold true today. Undoubtedly, they will still hold true twenty years from now at the close of the century.

We are here to assist in the difficult process of trying to assure the highest possible quality of service from governments and voluntary agencies. For the citizens who need and pay for these services, the importance of this basic function is unlikely to change regardless of how the community evolves around them.

David E. Seldon

Hamilton-Wentworth in Review: Slow Growth Continues

During 1980, the Regional population topped the 410,000 mark with a total growth of 2,287. At an annual growth rate of .5% we are well below the rate which was forecasted in our optimistic Regional Official Plan.

This reduced rate of population growth represents a trend which could be of considerable importance to our Regional future. For the past five years, we have been in a period of very slow growth and this has obvious implications for the Regional tax base and our ability to undertake long-term financing of major capital projects.

The shift in population trends is most pronounced in the City of Hamilton which reported negligible growth in 1980 and has continually declined from a peak year in 1976. At present, the City has roughly the same population as it had in 1974. Stoney Creek continues to be the only part of the Region which is showing any significant growth.

There is a considerable controversy about whether or not this slow growth is the beginning of a long-term trend or merely a temporary aberration. It is certainly not unique to our Region. Ontario, as a whole, is undergoing slow growth as a result of two major factors – a continual decrease in birthrates and a heavy migration to the job-rich western provinces. For the first time in recent history, the province has more people moving out than moving in.

There is some evidence, in fact, that slow population growth in the traditional industrial areas is a growing trend throughout the western world. It has already been noted in the industrial centre of North Eastern United States and Western Europe. We may, therefore, be part of a global trend to reduced urban growth, the implications of which are only now being studied.

LABOUR FORCE DECREASES

Given this slow rate of population growth, it is not too surprising that labour force growth has also slowed. It is surprising, however, that Statistics Canada estimates indicated that our labour force actually decreased in size during 1980. Their

estimates placed our labour force at 270,000 in 1979 and only 268,000 in 1980.

During the same period, our unemployment rate increased slightly from 6.2 to 6.4. The participation rate of females in the labour force continued its slow climb although we remain well below provincial and national averages.

HOUSING ACTIVITY SLOWS

The number of building permits issued in the Region continued to show a remarkable decline from over 1,200 in 1979 to only 807 in 1980. This represents a continuation of a trend which began in 1975, when the number of permits peaked at just over 5,000. The drop has occurred in all classifications of housing types.

The drop is particularly pronounced in the permits for apartments. During the past two years, only 15 building permits have been issued for apartments and this figure stands in marked contrast to the 2,000 which were issued in 1974. Correspondingly, apartment vacancy rates have dropped to a low of 1.5% from a peak of 4.3% in 1977. The average cost of apartment rentals increased by approximately 10%.

Figures from the Hamilton Real Estate Board show a continued decrease in sales of single-family dwellings for the third year in a row. The price of these houses did not change appreciably.

In summary, then, 1980 proved to be another year of slow growth in population, employment and housing. This has potentially significant implications for our way of life in the Region. The property tax base which has traditionally financed so many of our urban, social and economic services, has always grown on the back of our expanding population.

At the same time, a period of slow growth could provide us with a breathing space. A time to plan, to consolidate, to clarify our Regional priorities. Growth inevitably causes us to concentrate on developing "more" services. Slow growth could allow us to change our focus to "better" services. To improve that which we already have rather than simply adding more and more.

We need, therefore, to give serious attention to the social implications of slow growth. The study of these implications will be a major task for our Council's research staff during the coming year.

Executive Director's Report

During the past twelve months, the Council lost two valuable staff persons to the enticements of our federal and provincial governments. Peter Steckenreiter, our specialist in urban planning, succumbed to the invitation of the Ministry of Community and Social Services to become a regional planning officer in their London office. He has been ably replaced by Kim Van Louwe, who will carry on Peter's duties in the area of research and urban planning.

The other major loss, of course, was that of our Executive Director, Don Peirce, who has moved on to greater things with the federal department of the Secretary of State in Thunder Bay. Don has been replaced, we hope "ably", by myself. Don did an exceptional job of guiding the Council through its last six years and we all wish him well in his new job.

The position of Research Director, which I vacated, has been changed to that of a community development co-ordinator. Mrs. Susan Goodman has been hired to bring her impressive skills to bear on our long-standing community development service.

RESEARCH

As in previous years, over half of our research time was spent in consultative activities with other agencies and funders in the Region. A large portion of this time is spent in work with the United Way Agency Relations Committee to assist them in the allocation of their funds. In addition, we continued to consult with agencies on the development of program evaluation systems and in planning future directions for their services. Major time commitments were made to the Meals-on-Wheels program for a study of unmet demand for their service and to the Lodging Homes Association for a continuing study of lodging home needs in the Region.

During the year, we concluded a major study, funded by Health and Welfare Canada, of the effects that the socio-economic characteristics of a neighbourhood have upon the demand for different types of social services. The information gained from this study will allow us to better forecast future service demands.

The research program also began looking at the effects of the changing age structure of our population upon the demand for service. Having watched the problems encountered by the educational system in adjusting to the passage of the legendary post-war baby-boom, we began studying the expected effects of the same trends upon the social services sector.

The other major project concluded in 1980 was the publication of a Guide for Family Budgeting which involved a major survey of prices in Hamilton-Wentworth to arrive at estimations of income required by families to maintain a basic standard of living. We now plan to update this publication on an annual basis.

Research staff continued to compile basic trend statistics to monitor social conditions within the Region.

Our Community Service Management Seminars series continued in 1980/81 with the sponsorship of two seminars. The intent of this series is to assist in the development of administrative skills of management personnel in the social services sector. The two seminars undertaken during the past years were "Working with Agency Goals and Objectives" and "Cost Accounting for Community Service Managers". As an offshoot of these activities, we initiated a joint Mohawk College-McMaster University continuing education course entitled "Management in Human Services".

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The essential purpose of the Council's community development program is two-fold:

- 1) to reinforce the efforts of citizen organizations in dealing with the problems that confront them, and
- 2) to work with government officials in dealing with the many social issues which are a part of the urban planning process.

In fulfilling this mandate, Council staff have continued working with both government officials and citizen groups under the leadership of our Community Development Advisory Committee.

One of our major projects was our work with the City of Hamilton in the development of the Central Area Plan, which sought to chart the course of future development in the downtown area. The

project is now completed and has been replaced by the allocation of staff time to a study group of the Regional government which is looking at the development of a major regional transit system.

Staff assistance was requested by the Save the Valley Committee to review the various studies which have been conducted about the need for a major freeway through the Red Hill Creek area. This work is now underway.

The development of the Women's Centre as a self-help organization for local women was a major priority in 1980. A significant commitment of staff time was made to this effort and the Centre is now successfully established. Although our staff time will be reduced somewhat during the coming year, we will continue to provide support to this much needed organization.

As a part of our continuing interest in the issue of the access of citizens to information about the activities of the government, the Community Development Advisory Committee established an Access to Information Sub-Committee under the leadership of Alderman Brian Hinkley. The group is studying the possibility of a by-law to insure the rights of citizens in this regard.

The past increases in the activities of neighbourhood and citizens' organizations continued in 1980 and this increase has been reflected in growing demands for the consultation services of SPRC staff. In recognition of this, our recent staff re-organization created a full-time community development co-ordinator position to assist the various groups requesting assistance. It is hoped that this action will enhance our ability to work with these vital and committed groups.

VOLUNTEER BUREAU

The Volunteer Bureau continued its important work in the recruitment and placement of volunteers in the many agencies that depend on the Bureau to help them maintain viable volunteer programs. The tireless volunteer interviewers, who form the backbone of our program, deserve more thanks and praise than is possible to give them. During the past twelve months, they interviewed 627 volunteers for placements in 128 agencies.

The Bureau also continued its innovative work in the area of training highly specialized volunteers in

the CORE program. These volunteers work as adjuncts to professional therapists by providing long term, one-to-one support care to clients who require the kind of intensive support that professionals can't provide for reasons of time and money.

In response to the problems encountered by the newly arrived Asian refugees, the Bureau has worked closely with a group of local agencies in the recruitment and training of specialized volunteers to assist these families with their adjustment to Canadian life. This is a very good example of the Bureau's ability to respond to new problems as they arise while, at the same time, maintaining their more traditional role of recruitment and placement.

Bureau staff also began working on an exciting new project related to the development of a Skills Bank which would greatly increase the degree to which volunteers with the appropriate skills could be referred to groups requiring their services.

As always, volunteers have proved to be the "backbone" of the Volunteer Bureau. Their tireless work on committees and other projects have made it possible for the staff to use their skills in the effective manner that they do.

In summary, then, 1980/81 has been another busy year for the Council. We have continued testing new ways of delivering services to the community while, at the same time, supporting those traditional modes of service which have proved their worth. We've had our successes and our failures and learned a great deal in the process.

Once again, our activities have only been made possible by the interaction of skilled staff with committed and talented volunteers. The interaction which goes on between the staff and volunteers is the force which prevents us from becoming a stale and bureaucratized organization. On behalf of the staff, I extend a heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers and the countless hours which they devote to the Council.

Particular thanks are owed to the United Way and the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth for their continued financial support during the past year. In a time when dollars have been harder to come by, their basic commitment to the Council and its work has remained steady. It is during these times of "tight dollars" that the need for planning and research becomes particularly acute if we are to maintain a viable social service system within our community.

Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1980

(with comparative figures for 1979)

	1980	1979
REVENUES		
Support from the public	197,046	182,225
Support from governments	50,052	40,587
Other	11,012	5,519
Total Revenues	258,110	228,331
EXPENSES		
Salaries	194,038	176,226
Employee health and retirement benefits	13,644	12,888
Data processing and professional fees	2,302	893
Supplies	8,683	7,127
Telephone	5,367	5,349
Postage and shipping	3,205	2,450
Occupancy	11,439	12,241
Outside printing	1,859	1,134
Local transportation	3,231	2,285
Conferences and meetings	9,184	5,227
Subscriptions and reference publications	896	682
Organization dues	571	570
Equipment and fixed assets	1,624	1,593
Rentals and miscellaneous	1,321	640
Total Expenses	257,364	229,305
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues) for year	746	(974)
Surplus beginning of year	565	1,539
Surplus end of year	1,311	565

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors and Members of
The Social Planning and Research Council
of Hamilton and District:

We have examined the balance sheet of The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and District as at December 31, 1980 and the statement of financial activities for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 1980 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Hamilton, Canada,
February 16, 1981

Clarkson Gordon
Chartered Accountants

Committee Membership

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee:

Mike Welch, Chairman	Robert G. Darling
Marjorie Baskin	*Wayne Hodson
Bishop John C. Bothwell	David E. Seldon

Nominating Committee:

Bishop John C. Bothwell, Chairman	Thomas J. Hawes
Dr. James Allison	Ted McMeekin
Sheila Copps	Kenneth W. O'Neal
Robert G. Darling	John Shea
Douglas Gale	Dave Shanks

Personnel Committee:

Bishop John C. Bothwell, Chairman	*Wayne Hodson
Marjorie Baskin	David E. Seldon
Robert G. Darling	Mike Welch

STANDING COMMITTEES

Community Development Advisory Committee:

Dick Capling, Chairman	*Cathy Moulder
Heather Bullock	Dave Shanks
Susan Goodman	Donna Slater
Robert Kendrick	Jenny Street
Patti McGillicuddy	Jim Sykes
Ted McMeekin	

Information Program Committee:

Marjorie Baskin, Chairman	Hilda Mak
Judith Bishop	*Terry Spearin
William Davis	Ross Robinson
Charles T. McNair	

Research Advisory Committee:

Robert G. Darling, Chairman	Lou Lanza
Robert Arnold	Gary Miller
Larry Chambers	Ruth Milner
*Michael Dear	Nick Sidoruk
Wanda Harmon	Margaret Strecker
Owen Jackson	

Volunteer Bureau Advisory Committee:

Donna Marcaccio, Chairperson	*Myrna Forsyth
Ted McMeekin, 1st Vice-Chairperson	Brian Hinkley
Terri-Lee Seeley, 2nd Vice-Chairperson	Wayne Hodson
Rev. Melville T. Bailey	Sheila Johnson
*Fritz Bliedung	Rob Kendrick
Frances Chesney	Alma Luckett
Mabel Duncan	*Alice McClelland
	*Flora Nicholson
	*Michael Smith

*Resigned during the year

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Planning Model Committee

Anthony Butler
Dick Capling
John Doherty
Gloria Dummitt

*Susan Goodman
Richard Leppert
Harry L. Penny

Support Services Committee:

Carole Capling
Margaret Buddo
Barbara Cambridge
Joyce Caygill
Steve Cowley
Steve Dwyer
Mary E. Gibbon

Noreen McNairn
Evelyn Tomlinson
*Dorothy Unsworth
Marilyn Vallance
Norma Walsh
Lois Walton

Task Force on Lodging Homes

Dan Bissett
Margaret Buddo
Jean Cameron
Joyce Caygill
Carl deLottinville
Helen Forbes
Patty Leonard

Richard Leppert
Pat Saunders
Phyllis Turner /
Linda Delsey
Emmy Weisz
Valerie Williams

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE

Access to Information

Heather Bullock
Brian Hinkley

Joana Kuris
Cathy Moulder

VOLUNTEER BUREAU SUB-COMMITTEES

Volunteer Week 1981 Co-Ordinating Committee:

Alma Luckett, Chairperson	*Don Lamont
Leonor Hart, Vice-Chairperson	*Donna Marcaccio
Paulette Baron	*Adrianna Pupulin
*Ed Beattie	Bud Rheubottom
*Audrey Beniach	Margaret Richer
Fran Cheyne	*Jim Rushton
Rae Hickmore	Thalia Smith
*Carol Hunter	*Alison VanDuzer
*Marg Keast	Candy Welke

Publicity Committee:

Rob Kendrick, Chairperson	*Donna Marcaccio
Beth McGuire, Vice-Chairperson	*Olive Poulton
Anne Aquin (Clipping Service)	Elinor Raycroft
Lillian Bayne	(Clipping Service)
*Victor Disyak	*Marnie A. Spears
*James L. Harris	Debbi Straicher

Interviewers Committee:

Mabel Duncan, Chairperson	Elizabeth MacKay
Sondra Offord, Vice-Chairperson	Irene Mayhew
Sheila Fung	*Alice McClelland
Joan Guildford	Dorothy Munroe
James L. Harris	Mary O'Keefe
Phyllis Harris	Helaine Ortman
*Betty Jamieson	Helen Sinclair
Isa Kingston	

Community Organize Resource Endeavour (C.O.R.E.) Committee:

(Chairmanship for this committee is a rotating responsibility.)

Pat Allingham	*Geoff Pittman
*Edith Bater	Lindsey Purser
Tracey Brown	Pat Saunders
Joan Cooper	Mary Ann Seldon
Mike DeVillaer	Craig Townson
*Art Grady	*Kay Toye

Education Committee:

Sheila Johnson, Chairperson	Elizabeth Newman
Jean Emberley	Flora Nicholson
Jeannette Gilkes	Lilly Oddi-Munro
Eleanor Grossman	*Mary Pease
Jim Hobbs	Ida Reddy
Elizabeth MacKay	*Terri-Lee Seeley
Mary McCullough	Phyllis Turner
Joan McKee	Jim Wilkinson

*Resigned during the year

Staff Members

<i>Executive Director:</i>	Donald A. Peirce* Michael W. Pennock
<i>Senior Researcher:</i>	Johann E. Orr
<i>Volunteer Bureau Director:</i>	Linda Graff
<i>Community Development Co-ordinator:</i>	Susan Goodman
<i>Planning Associates:</i>	Donald G. Jaffray Peter Steckenreiter*
<i>Research Associate:</i>	Kim Van Louwe
<i>Secretarial Staff:</i>	Mary Swan, Office Manager Cora Cousins Edna Fields Kay German Shurl Kocman Gilberte M. Marlin
<i>Volunteer Clerical Staff:</i>	Jill Hill Hilda Nelligan
<i>Student Staff:</i>	
Mohawk College	- Tracy Brown
Sherwood Secondary	- Marcia Collier
McMaster University	- Mary Downey
McMaster University	- Gloria Dummitt
McMaster University	- Priscilla Harding
McMaster University	- Elsa Rayner
<i>Project Staff:</i>	Liz Bloomfield Elaine Burgess Devi Caussy Karen Cooper Sapy Dinshaw Lee Lewis Elsa Rayner Margaret Taylor Linda Sweeney Veitch Loreta Zubas

*Resigned during the year

Board of Directors

1980 - 1981

OFFICERS

David E. Seldon, President
Marjorie Baskin, Vice-President
Robert G. Darling, Vice-President
A. Michael Welch, Treasurer
Bishop John C. Bothwell, Past-President
Michael W. Pennock, Secretary
+Donald A. Peirce, Secretary

HONORARY SOLICITOR

William N. Callaghan, Q.C.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

J. Nelson Allan
Thomas A. Beckett
Donald O. Cannon, Q.C.
Craig Fraser
Hubert A. Martin, Q.C.
Charles T. McNair
Donald A. T. McFarlane

DIRECTORS

Term Ending 1981

*John C. Bothwell
*Marjorie Baskin
*Dick Capling
*Joyce Caygill
*Robert G. Darling
Rev. Dr. Rex Dolan
Thomas J. Gallagher
Harry Hynd
*David E. Seldon

Term Ending 1982

Anthony Butler
William Davis
Larry Enkin
Leonor Hart
Elizabeth MacKay
Judith C. McCulloch
Edgar E. Smee
John Southall
*A. Michael Welch

Term Ending 1983

Jon Buttrum
+John Doherty
Grace Lewis
Richard Leppert
Hilda Mak

Dorothy Marchesan
*Roy O'Grady
W. Ross Robinson
+Marnie A. Spears

Advisory Members:

Bruce G. Mochrie

Norma Walsh

Members of Executive not on the Board

Donna Marcaccio

Norma Walsh

*Members of Executive Committee

+Resigned during the year